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(54) Remote computer virus scanning

(57) A method of scanning electronic files for computer viruses comprises identifying at a first node 4 of a computer network 1, electronic files which require to be scanned for computer viruses. The first node 4 initiates a dialogue with a second node 7 of the network 1, the second node comprising a virus scanning application.

During the dialogue, the second node 7 identifies to the first node 4 one or more portions of the electronic file required by the virus scanning application. The first node 4 transfers the identified portions to the second node 7 which then carries out a virus scanning operation. The result of this operation is then returned to the first node 4.

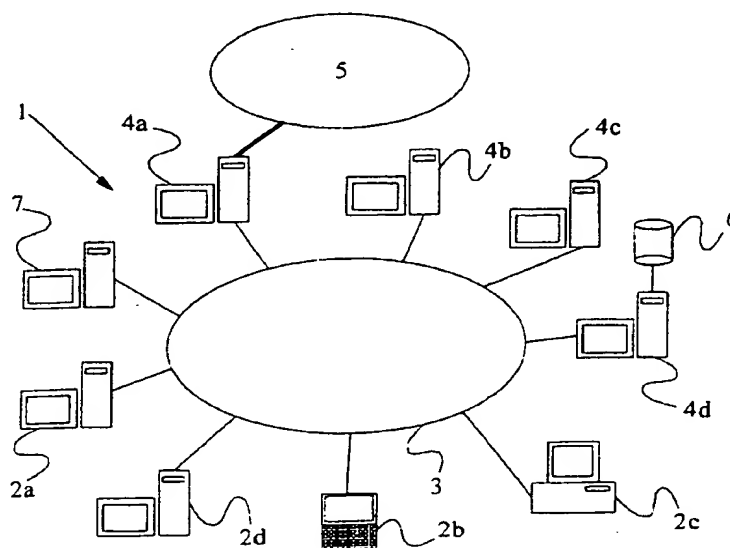


Figure 1

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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